

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO USIA WARHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1998

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USIACC

E.O. 11652: N/AT

SUBJECT: IBALAN BOOK CONFERENCE-EXHIBIT

REF: A. USIA

25621-U,

B. LAGOS 10196-C, C. USIA 24929 ETC.

1. RE DRAGT OF LAGE-LATTANZI ALTERNATIVES, THEY OFFER POSSIBLE
WAYS OF REDUCING BOOK CONFERENCE-EXHIBIT COSTS BUT DO NOT ADDRESS
BASIC PROBLEMS RAISED REFTEL B.

2. HAVE JUST RECEIVED LETTER FROM BAENSCH DATED 11/5 REQUESTING
"STATUS REPORT." IMPOSSIBLE RESPOND SINCE WE UNAWARE STATOR HIS
PLANS AND COMMITMENTS TO NIGERIA COUOTERPARTS. HE ASSERTS PROJECT
"IS GAINING CONSIDERABLE MOMENTUM, NOT ONLY AS A PROJECT FOR NIGERIA
OR AFRICAPM BOTH THE PUBLISHING IND LIBRARY COMMUNITIES SEE NT AS
THE FIRST CONCRETE MODEL FOR WORKING TOGETHER WITH USIA AND STATE
ON RELATING EFFECTIVELY TO EDUCATION COMMUNITY OF DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES."

ASIDE FROM THIS ASSERTION, WE HAVE NO INDICATION OF ANY PROGRESS
ON PROJECT NOR OF ANY TANGIBLE SUPPORT FROM AMERICAN PUBLISHERS
AND BOOKSELLERS ARIDE FROM BOOKS DONATED FOR EXHIBIT.

3. URGE PROJECT BE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY UNTIL A) SITUATION
REFTEL B PAHA

3 IS CLASIFIED AND B) AMERICAN PUBLISHERS AND
BOOKSELLERS ARE SUFFICIENTLY INTERESTED IN PROJECT TO PROVIDE
SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT REQUIRED. WITH ONLY TWO MONTHS REMAINING
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UNTIL CONFERENCE, THERE IS NO INDICATION BAENSCH HAS OBTAINED

SOLID SUPPORT FROM NITERIAO COUNTERPARTS. IN ADDITION, WE ANTICIPATE UNIVERSITIES SOON WILL BE IN DISARRAR AS RESULT IMMINENT "HOUSECLEANING" OF FACULTY MEMBERS BY FMG-SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT SINCE JU Y COUP IO FEDERAL AOD STATE GOVERNMENTS RESULTING IN DISMISSALS AND FORCED RETIREMENTS OF SEVERAL THOUSAND CIVIL SERVANTS. ALSO, NOW DOUBTFUL PROJECT COULD BE HELD AT UNIBALAN WHERE MUMH CONFERENCE CENTER HOUSING HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER FOR FACULTY HOUSING; POSSIBILITY OF ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS IS UOLIKELY.

4. REQUEST FIRM AGENCY DECISION NOW ON PROJECT. IF DECISION DESPITE OUR ADVICE IS TO PROCEED, MUST HAVE FIRM DETAILED COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES IN ORDER ATTEMPT MAKE SOMETHING USEFUL OUT OF EXISTING SHAMBLES.

5. IF DECISION IS TO POSTPONE PROJECT INDEFINITELY, NEED GUIDANCE RE DISPOSITION OF BOOKS (REFTEL B, PAHA 5). WOULD SUGGEST PRESENTATION OF NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES AS BICENTENNIAL GIFT FROM AMERICAN PUBLISHERS; COULD ORGANIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WHICH BELIEVE WOULD GENERATE GOODWILL FOR THEM AND INDICATE THEIR ONGOING GENERAL INTEREST IN EVENTUALLY ESTABLISHING PRACTICAL MEANS OF DISTRIBUTING AMERICAN BOOKS IN NIGERIA.

6. REQUEST
ADVICE ASAP.
HEDGES

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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